Application No. 10/681,470
Attorney Docket No. 2002B131/2

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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. - 9. (Withdrawn)

10. (Original) A composition for use in the sealing layer of laminate to be applied to a substrate, the composition consisting essentially of a combination of ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer and a resin, wherein during a heat sealing process, the sealing layer comprising the combination meets at least one of the following conditions:

    (i) at temperatures less than the maximum seal strength temperature (MSST) of the ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer alone, the sealing temperature of the sealing layer is at least 3°C below the sealing temperature of the ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer alone for a predetermined hot tack value;

    (ii) at temperatures greater than 10°C above the MSST of the ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer alone, the hot tack strength of the sealing layer is greater than 50% of the value of the maximum hot tack strength of the ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer alone; or

    (iii) the maximum hot tack of the sealing layer is greater than the maximum hot tack of the ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer alone.

11. (Original) The composition according to claim 10 meeting at least two of the conditions.

12. (Original) The composition according to claim 11 meeting all three conditions.

13. (Original) The composition according to claim 10 wherein at temperatures less than the MSST of the ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer alone, the sealing temperature of the sealing layer is at least 5°C below the sealing temperature of the ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer alone for a predetermined hot tack value.

14. (Original) The composition according to claim 10 wherein at temperatures less than the MSST of the ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer alone, the sealing temperature of the sealing layer is at least 10°C below the sealing temperature of the ethylene-unsaturated ester copolymer alone for a predetermined hot tack value.

15. (Original) The composition according to claim 10 consisting essentially of:

(a) 70 wt% or greater ethylene unsaturated ester copolymer and the ethylene unsaturated ester copolymer is an ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer having greater than 5 wt% vinyl acetate; and

(b) 30 wt% or less resin, wherein the resin is selected from the group consisting of: aliphatic hydrocarbon resins, hydrogenated aliphatic hydrocarbon resins, aliphatic/aromatic hydrocarbon resins, hydrogenated aliphatic/aromatic hydrocarbon resins, cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon resins, hydrogenated cycloaliphatic resins, cycloaliphatic/aromatic hydrocarbon resins, hydrogenated cycloaliphatic/aromatic hydrocarbon resins, aromatic hydrocarbon resins, hydrogenated aromatic hydrocarbon resins, polyterpene resins, terpene-phenol resins, rosins, rosin esters, hydrogenated rosins, hydrogenated rosin esters, grafted resins, and mixtures of any two or more thereof.

16. - 20. (Withdrawn)